The Story of the Slave's Justice

Islamic Stories - Volume 64

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Chapter 1: Retribution and Justice in the Royal Court

The Fugitive Servant: Flight and Capture

A slave belonging to ʿUmar Waliyyat had escaped. The people gave chase, and eventually, the fugitive was captured and brought back. The minister harboured resentment against the slave and advised that he be executed so that others might not dare attempt similar defiance.

Appeal for Clemency: The Slave’s Plea

The slave placed his head upon the ground before ʿUmar Waliyyat and addressed him directly, submitting himself to his judgement.

A Slave's Submission:

Slave:

“Whatever you approve to befall me is permissible”

“When the master's command is elective, how can a slave claim against him by compulsion? But only for the reason that I have been nurtured in the grace of this household, I do not wish that on the Day of Judgement, you should be held accountable for my blood. Permit me to slay the minister; then, in retribution for his blood, you may sentence me to death, so that you may shed my blood with justice.”

The King's Reaction: Laughter and Leniency

The king found the slave’s response amusing and turned to his minister with a question regarding his thoughts on the matter.

The Minister’s Retraction:

Minister:

“O Sovereign of the World! In my opinion, it is most prudent for the sake of God and for the sanctity of your father’s grave to set this man free—lest he bring calamity upon me. The fault, after all, is mine.”